

The Samuel C. Demarest House  
Rochelle Avenue  
Rochelle Park, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-90

HABS  
NJ  
2-ROCH  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Samuel C. Demarest House  
Rochelle Avenue  
Rochelle Park, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner (and occupant): Elmer D. Every

Date of Erection: 1824-1826

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (Original Owner) Samuel C. Demarest  
for son Cornelius

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - fieldstone masonry

Exterior walls - coursed ashlar sandstone  
in main unit, rubble in wing; frame  
gable ends over eave line

Interior walls - lath and plaster on oak  
studding

Floors - hewn beams, wide floor boards

Roof - gambrel on main unit, gable on  
wing, both having modern asphalt  
shingles. Dormers are modern.

Historical Data:

The identification of this house by  
discovery of the name of its original and succeeding  
owners has been possible by search of the title in  
the County records, reported as follows:

By a deed of 10 April 1824, Lawrence L.  
Ackerman and wife Phebe of New Barbadoes Township  
conveyed to Samuel C. Demarest of Saddle River

Township\* for \$1365 a tract of land in the former place, its lines described as "Beginning at Saddle River, in the public road\*\* leading to the town of Hackensack", thence along the road south 48 degrees 15 minutes east 47.50 chains to the land of David Banta, thence north 41 degrees 15 minutes east 11.23 chains, thence north 48 degrees 15 minutes west 45.90 chains to the land of John and Henry S. Ackerman, thence south 41 degrees 15 minutes west 6.74 chains, thence north 48 degrees 15 minutes west 10.50 chains to Saddle River, thence along the river to the place of beginning, and containing 54 acres, 2 rods and 19 perches. No house is mentioned.

Within two years the grantee, Samuel C. Demarest, had moved just over the river and evidently built the house (here surveyed) on the tract acquired in 1824 as above in New Barbadoes Township. He is described as being of that place in a deed of 10 April 1826 by which he bought some 9 3/4 acres there on the river front as an addition to the northwest corner of the tract acquired in 1824. Later he returned to his original house across the river in Saddle River Township.

The grantee Samuel C. Demarest(a) being of Saddle River Township, in his will dated 24 March

(\*) By deed of 15 April 1806, Samuel C. Demarest bought an 80 acre tract in Saddle River Twp., directly west across the river from this tract, and built a house thereon which we have surveyed as NJ-542. He was living there in 1847 and died 1853.

\*\* Now State Highway No. 5

(a) Samuel C. Demarest of Saddle River Twp., Bergen Co., N.J., 1824-1853, formerly of New York City 1806 and 1820, was son of Charles Demarest of Hunter, N.Y. and his wife Abigail Thorpe, daughter of Abner Thorpe of Woodbridge, N.J. By his wife Mary, he had issue, Cornelius, Nicholas and Jane Demarest, named in his will above cited. (Mary A. and Wm. H. S. Demarest, The Demarest Family, 1938, pp. 165 and 241).

1847 and proved 16 February 1853, devised "unto my son Cornelius that part of my farm lying on the east side of Saddle River" and "to my son Nicholas the remainder of my farm, lying on the west side of Saddle River." He stated that "because the dwelling house(b) on the farm of my son Nicholas, hereby devised, cost more than the dwelling house on the farm of my son Cornelius hereby devised, I will and so direct that my son Nicholas pay to my son Cornelius the sum of two hundred dollars one year after my decease". To his daughter Jane he bequeathed a salt meadow in Lodi Township and the interest on \$800, and appointed the two sons as executors. A codicil dated 5 December 1850 reduces the required payment of Nicholas to Cornelius from \$200 to \$100.

Cornelius Demarest for whom the house here surveyed was built by his father Samuel C. Demarest, and later devised to him by will in 1847 as abovesaid, left his real estate to his children, James Nicholas, Samuel and Clarissa, and ordered the executors to dispose of it by sale, his will being dated 31 August 1864 and proved 22 January 1866.

Accordingly, by deed of 8 September 1869, James C. and Nicholas C. Demarest, the executors, conveyed to Eliza Ramey and Jane Wortendyke the two adjoining tracts which formed their father's farm on the east side of Saddle River, reciting the deeds of 10 April 1824 and 11 January 1826 to their grandfather Samuel C. Demarest, first above quoted.

(b) This larger house, built between 1820-1824 by this testator, Samuel C. Demarest, on an 80 acre tract on the west side of the river, in Saddle River Twp., which he had acquired by deed of 15 April 1806, and evidently occupied at the time of his death in 1853, has been surveyed as HABS-NJ-542.

In 1891 the 64 acres were divided into streets and lots, a map of which (showing the house here surveyed) is on record in the County Clerk's Office.

One of these grantees, Ann Eliza Ramey of Midland Township\* and evidently occupying this house there, died 23 March 1893, devising her real estate to the executors in trust for her son Martin O. Ramey, with power to sell the same. The other grantee, Jane Wortendyke, died 26 May 1895 in the said Township, having devised her half share in the farm at Rochelle Park\*\*, N.J. to her brother John E. Wortendyke and nieces. But the property was taken and sold by the Tax Collector to the Inhabitants of Midland Township by deed of 25 August 1900. By sheriff's deed of 23 January 1901 it passed to Sarah Ann Westervelt and Gertrude E. Williams to satisfy a mortgage held by the grantees, and by a release of 15 February 1901 the title from the Inhabitants of Midland Township was confirmed to them. These two grantees passed part of the property to Thomas U. Angell on 18 May 1908. In the latter deed, the plot is described as bounded north by Lexington Avenue, east by West End Street, south by Paterson Turnpike and west by Rochelle Avenue. From Angell a part of this plot passed to Elmer D. Every on 29 May 1915, including the house thereon, and he remains owner and occupant at the time of our survey.

Reference:

Search of title in Land and Probate records of Bergen County by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 17 May 1939

Leura D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

\* Created 1871 from New Barbadoes Twp.

\*\* Created from part of Midland Twp.